

DISCOVERY

BROOKS
CITY-BASE
A Technology and Business Center

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 27, No. 4 - Friday, Feb. 28, 2003 -- Brooks City-Base, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

City-Base becomes first South Texas site for fuel cell test

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The future of fuel cell technology providing an environmentally friendly renewable source of energy took another leap forward in its evolutionary development on Feb. 18 when Brooks City-Base officially became the first South Texas site to test its application in residential and commercial venues.

Municipal and federal officials formally announced during a Hangar 9 ceremony the yearlong fuel cell demonstration projects involving the Challenger Learning Center and three units in family housing. Hosted by City Public Service, the event showcased various public-private partnerships that have committed resources to the development of this hydrogen-based technology.

"I'm excited about fuel cell technology at Brooks City-base," said San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza, adding, "These two projects mark the beginning of research which will help make San Antonio a hub for high technology transfer, ultimately helping to attract more industry to our city. Projects like these will help San Antonio not only obtain the expertise in clean alternative energy, but will aid us in our quest

See Cells, Page 4



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Chamber flight preparations

Capt. James Allen, director of Aerospace Physiology Training Programs at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, and Lisa Sandberg, a San Antonio Express-News writer, prepare for a rapid decompression in an altitude chamber in Bldg. 160. Sandberg and Express-News photographer

Gloria Ferniz, successfully completed altitude chamber training recently at Brooks and are now qualified to fly aboard military aircraft. The two will be imbedded with American troops and will soon deploy for their assignments overseas. Their stories and photos will appear in the San Antonio Express-News.

CSAF briefs Senate on service's outlook for 04

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper joined the other service chiefs Feb. 25 to give the Senate Armed Services Committee his view of how fiscal 2004 is shaping up.

Jumper testified on areas ranging from manpower shortages and concerns about aging aircraft to the promises of future aircraft currently in development.

The general addressed the increased operations tempo under which the Air Force worked throughout 2002 and into 2003. According to Jumper, more than 25,000 airmen have deployed during operations Enduring Freedom, and Northern and Southern Watch, launching nearly 80,000 sorties. In addition, more than 25,000 sorties have covered American skies as part of Operation Noble Eagle. And, airmen also participated in several humanitarian missions worldwide.

"Our (operations) tempo has been high and our people have been sprinting for a long time, but they never failed to answer the call," Jumper said.

One of the ways the Air Force has worked to relieve the stress in deployment schedules is to make more

If you take those tasks that do not need to be done by people in uniform and slip those people back over to uniformed slots, we can relieve the tension on our deployed forces.

Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

people available for deployment. A secretary-of-defense mandate called for the services to examine the jobs done by military members to see if civilian employees could do them.

"If you take those tasks that do not need to be done by people in uniform and slip those people back over to uniformed slots, we can relieve the tension on our deployed forces," Jumper said. "In the Air Force alone, we found 12,000 people doing what we think didn't have to be done by people in uniform."

"So it's not just a matter of adding end-strength. It's a matter of making efficiencies of what you (have)," he said. Another point of institutional stress facing the service is the cost of maintaining an increasingly geriatric aircraft fleet, Jumper said.

"Our average aircraft is 23 years old — the oldest we've ever had to deal with," Jumper said. "We're facing corrosion and fatigue problems we've

never seen before."

The cost of maintaining the aging fleet is increasing at a rate of about 10 percent per year, Jumper said. In addition, maintainers are working about 200,000 extra man-hours per year to inspect engines.

On the plus side, the general praised the potential of the F/A-22 Raptor and the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft.

"The F/A-22 will give us 24-hour stealth capability for the first time," he said. "It's already got the qualities of the best air-to-air fighter in the world, but its main focus will be on what it can do air-to-ground."

"The Joint STARS is magnificent sensing device that we join with ground forces to give them moving target indications on the ground," he said.

According to Jumper, the service is planning to upgrade the next generation of JSTARS to the Boeing 767.

"This will be the baseline aircraft for our multi-sensor command and control aircraft that will do the integration of space, manned and unmanned platforms that we think will take us into the future," he said.

Those additions to the fleet, along with a "total force" cadre of active duty, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and civilian men and women who are the "best in the world," makes today's Air Force more ready than ever to answer the call.

"The Air Force has never not been ready," Jumper said. "We're ready for anything the president asks."

INSIDE



Ambassadors visit veterans

Page 9



Black History month tribute:
Blues in the Wind

Page 15



The *Discovery* is published by **Prime Time Inc.**, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive contract with Brooks City-Base, Texas.

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the *Discovery* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the United States Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or **Prime Time Corp.** of the products or services advertised.

Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks City-Base. Material for the *Discovery* should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5115 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: Cerise.Shapiro@brooks.af.mil or to: Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

The *Discovery* is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the *Discovery*, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to **Prime Time Military Newspapers, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.**

Discovery Editorial Staff:

311th Human Systems Wing Commander

Col. Tom Travis

Director of Public Affairs

Larry Farlow

Editor

Cerise Shapiro

(cerise.shapiro@brooks.af.mil)

Assistant Editor

Dale Eckroth

Public Affairs NCOIC

Staff Sgt. John Jung

Staff Writer

Rita Boland

Photography

Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

Discovery logo by Arlene Schirmer



Sylvia Black, Publisher

Pia Goodman, Prod. Mgr.

Pat McCain, Classified Mgr.

Diane Bohl, Sales Manager

Sherry Snoga, Account Exec.

Rose Stewart, Account Exec.

Jeanne Munoz, Account Exec.

Pete Guevara, Account Exec.

Advertising

(210) 675-4500

FAX:

(210) 675-4577

E-mail:

sblack@txdirect.net

Community Newspapers:

North San Antonio Times — Northside Recorder

Bulverde Community News — Southside Reporter

The Herald

Military Newspapers:

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

Lackland Talespinner — Kelly USA Observer

Medical Patriot — Randolph Wingspread

Brooks Discovery

Specialty Publications:

Daily Commercial Recorder — Que Pasa!

S.A.Kids

Graphics & Printing Services:

Prime Time Graphics

Christopher Press (Web printing)



The *Discovery* is online.

Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.



Values — hallmarks of true professionals

By Col. David Francis

Staff Judge Advocate

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFMCNS) — From entry-level training for new recruits to the everyday news coverage of events in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the world, we're constantly told that today's military is the most "professional" in America's history.

Within Air Force Materiel Command, we pride ourselves on being "professional" officers, airmen and civilians who provide "professional" support to our warfighters.

Despite this, few of us ever take the time to think about what being a professional in today's Air Force really means. Were we to do so, I think most of us, while we have some idea of professionalism in the broadest sense, would agree that it's hard to totally define.

In fact, there are so many aspects to professionalism, both large and small, that it would take a lifetime to fully explore. Even then, I expect we'd all come up with different definitions.

There are, however, certain fundamental values that the many professionals I've been privileged to meet in my career hold dear. I want to share what I believe are four of the most important.

To me, these four values epitomize the "IDEA" of the true professional.

Integrity:

The "I" in "idea" represents the single most important part of professionalism, bar none. It's the very bedrock upon which our professional military stands and without which it must surely fail. That foundation is integrity — once described by Gen. Lee Butler, last commander-in-chief of Strategic Air Command, as "that rock-ribbed, uncompromising, deeply rooted commitment to doing what is right in the face of all obstacles, consequences and temptations to do otherwise."

Integrity is the priceless commodity that allows us to trust our leaders with our careers, the quality of our military family environment and, in times of war, even our lives. It is also the essential ingredient that allows all of us, whether at the Air Force level or here, to work as a team — to depend on the guy next to us to do his job both well and honestly, so we can do ours.

Integrity involves more than what we normally think of in terms of basic honesty. All of us know and recognize that we should not lie, cheat or steal, but that's just the easy part.

The hard part is knowing and making the right choice when the issues are much smaller or less clear-cut. Resisting the urge to "borrow" government pencils, pens or other small supplies for the kids to use in school. Avoiding taking part in damaging rumors or gossip about our fellow airmen and co-workers, and stopping others from doing so; and even being honest in our appraisal of those who work for and with us.

How many times have you as supervisors been assigned a new worker who didn't measure up to standards but had received the highest possible ratings on his or her last evaluation? How many of you, in rating your own people, have allowed your own appraisal of an individual's performance to be shaded by your personal friendship with that person?

You might think it doesn't matter, but how would you feel, and how would that person feel, if because of such a sterling, untrue rating, he or she was assigned to a critical job which they lacked the skills to perform, causing them and the mission they supported to fail miserably?

The point is that our system requires, and is built on the need for, both individual and organizational integrity. True professionals recognize that goal and strive to meet it.

Dedication:

"D" in the "idea" of professionalism stands for dedication. In my time in the Air Force, I have slowly come to realize that nothing is truer than that old recruiting slogan: "The Air Force is more than just a job — it's a way of life."

Anyone who doesn't think so need only spend a tour at one of our overseas bases or on deployment, where we all have to function together as part of our own small community.

Because of the closeness in which we all live and work, we cannot treat the Air Force as just another 8 to 5 job, shedding all responsibilities when we leave work and ignoring the needs of our communities until we return the next day. As professionals, we have to be willing to dedicate ourselves not to just the routine part of our work, but to the success of our overall mission and the quality of life in our communities.

Professionals enthusiastically put in the extra hours to get the job done. They volunteer, and encourage their families to volunteer, to fill the needs of our community to the best of their ability, whether as an office volunteer, a choir or Sunday School leader, a coach for one of the base teams, a Boy or Girl Scout leader, or any number of other jobs that mean the difference between just living and enjoying a true quality of life.

Dedication also means dedicated support of Air Force requirements and policies, as set forth in Air Force directives and instructions. As Air Force professionals, we have an obligation to learn and understand Air Force policy and to fairly and honestly apply that policy to the best of our ability — even if we might not agree with it on a personal level.

This applies to simple issues like drug abuse, and to the more emotionally charged, far-reaching issues like homosexuals in the military, or even the need for our recent, massive organizational changes.

Embrace change:

"E" in "idea" means embrace change. Change in today's Air Force is a fact of life. As professionals, we must recognize that we don't live in a static environment.

Our mission and Air Force structure constantly shift to meet the needs of our changing world environment and changing technology. Change is inevitable and, if we are to continue to perform our mission, and do it well, we cannot fight that change. We have to embrace it and recognize that we are uniquely trained and qualified to deal with it.

As professionals, we must not only accept change, we must also plan for it and shape it with our own vision, to the best advantage of the Air Force. Someone once asked Helen Keller, who was born deaf, blind and mute: "What could be worse than being born without sight?" She responded without hesitation: "Being born with sight, but without vision."

True professionals recognize the truth of that statement and build on change, with a vision of what might be. They don't accept the status quo, but constantly strive to make it better.

Action:

The "A" in "idea" stands for action, again and again and again. You can be as personally honest, dedicated and receptive to change as the day is long, but if you don't put those qualities into action, it amounts to nothing.

As professionals, we not only have to recognize the value of these ideas, but also have to work at achieving them. We have to get involved in our communities and constantly work to correct our own actions and those of others around us.

I guarantee that no matter how good our intentions or how hard we try, we will at times fail to live up to the "idea of professionalism." I have, you have and the people working next to you have. It's inevitable. None of us is perfect or ever will be.

Integrity, dedication, embracing change and action — these are the hallmarks of the true professionals I have known and the values we must all strive for if we are to live up to their example.



Partnership principles help AFMC deliver support to warfighter

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander Air Force Materiel Command

and

Bobby Harnage

President, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Every successful organization has key ingredients — strong leadership, dedicated workers, a clear roadmap of where it wants to go and focused goals. But there is another ingredient that strengthens an organization — strong partnerships.

Air Force Materiel Command and the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO have forged a strong, dynamic partnership built on an important vision — labor and management working together to create and sustain an environment that takes care of our people so they can take care of the mission. And our partnership is helping us make a difference as we provide support to our American warfighters and our allies.

But there was a time when our union and AFMC management did not have a strong partnership and we often engaged in heated debate about how best to serve the command workforce. But today, our relationship is built on five partnership principles:

— We value and respect all workers

— We focus on our common interests and shared problems

— We share information freely

— We treat each other as equals

— And we work to sustain the partnership process

We follow these principles with respect and appreciation for each other's roles and responsibilities. It's not a perfect partnership, few partnerships are.

But we are committed to maintaining a climate in which management and the union work together. Whether it's on the shop floor or around the conference room table, we must work together as partners. Following these principles is the right thing to do.

We've come a long way since we formed our command partnership council three years ago. Our councils, both at the headquarters and our centers, are making great strides as we operationalize partnership principles at all levels throughout AFMC.

We are working as a team and there is no better example of our success than the Alternative Dispute Resolution program we're rolling out right now. It's a way to resolve disputes — not as adversaries but as partners. It's quicker and less expensive than the traditional complaint process, so it puts less strain on our ability to accomplish the mission.

We call on everyone in AFMC, military and civilian, union and non-bargaining, to work as a team and embrace our partnership principles. It will make a difference in your quality of life and in AFMC's success meeting our national security objectives. Together we can make it happen.

AFIERA contractors search for Space Shuttle Columbia debris

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

Two members of the Brooks community spent six days helping NASA and the FBI look for remnants of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Greg Merritt and Tony Jasek, employees of Karta Technologies, Inc. and contracted by the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, helped map and search the area around Hemphill, Texas, Feb. 9-14.

Jasek worked on the search team, putting to use his knowledge of the Global Positioning System and the Geographic Information System. The GIS is computer hardware and software that allows the user to take geographic information and compiles, displays and manipulates the data giving a written or visual report.

"We tried to decide where people should walk or we could pinpoint the debris they had found," Jasek said.

The coordinators of the search mission asked specifically for people with GPS skills to volunteer to help. In order to participate, Jasek and Merritt needed a request for their help from a government agency. When the FBI asked for their assistance, they had to approve the trip with their supervisors.

"We had their blessing," Jasek said. Jasek and his team searched through dense underbrush where few people ventured to find pieces of wreckage.

Merritt, the network administrator at AFIERA, worked on the computer system for the search effort, putting in 18-19-hour days.

"The need was just about around the clock," Merritt said.

“ It was nice to be able to pitch in a little bit. It was personal. **”**

Greg Merritt

Columbia debris search team member

Merritt has personal connections to the tragedy. He worked at NASA for several years in mission control and worked with the Columbia on previous missions.

"It was nice to be able to pitch in a little bit," he said. "It was personal." Merritt participated on a search team for one day as well.

Personnel from 80 government agencies took part in the search, but the outpouring of generosity and support from the citizens of Hemphill especially touched Jasek and Merritt.

In a town of about 3,500 people, 1,500 helped search for debris. The citizens also opened their homes to give the workers a place to stay and donated all the food and supplies the recovery teams needed.

"Everybody really came together," Jasek said. "It absolutely turned the place upside down."

Though the men from Brooks stayed in a hotel in Jasper, Texas, about 40 miles away, they appreciated the hospitality of Hemphill. "One guy was staying in a barn," Merritt said.

Jasek had the opportunity to return to the search area, but became ill and had to cancel his plans.

Search and recovery efforts continue in East Texas and other parts of the country.



Cells

Continued from Page 1

for viable solutions for maintaining air quality in our city."

Garza joined District 3 City Councilwoman Toni Moorhouse, Precinct 4 Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, Brooks Development Authority Chairman Howard Peak and Department of Defense Fuel Cell Program Manager Dr. Michael Binder in symbolically signaling the technology's debut here by flipping a large switch that turned on a fuel cell-powered light bulb.

The proton exchange membrane fuel cells being demonstrated here are battery-like devices that convert one of the universe's most common natural gases, hydrogen, into usable energy such as electricity to power buildings and heat water. The chemical conversion process involving hydrogen and oxygen produces water as a byproduct and results in no environmentally harmful emissions.

Fuel cell technology began in 1839 with the discovery of batteries, but its large-scale application has been limited due, in part, to cost and efficiency issues. NASA first began using fuel cells to power on-board electronics for Gemini and Apollo spacecraft. Today, NASA uses fuel cells in the space shuttle fleet.

"The units we're using now for housing cost \$1,500 a kilowatt-hour to operate. To be economically viable the price must be reduced to (around) \$700-800 a kilowatt-hour," said Binder. He said potential applications for this technology is limitless, especially if developmental tests involving future automobiles reduce the cost to \$50 a kilowatt-hour. In his recent State of the Union address, President Bush announced additional federal funding for fuel cell technology development aimed at producing environmentally safe and economically efficient 'hydrogen-powered' cars of the future. Other future fuel cell applications include powering lap top computers and cell phones.

"The lessons we learn here in the demonstration projects will help accelerate its (fuel cell) automotive appli-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

A ceremonial switch that turned on a fuel cell-powered light bulb at Hangar 9 is thrown by, left to right, City Councilwoman Toni Moorhouse; County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson; Dr. Michael Binder, DoD's fuel cell program manager; Brooks Development Authority Chairman Howard Peak and San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza.

cations," said Binder, who for more than a decade has been involved in fuel cell technology development as principal research investigator for the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory's Facilities Division Energy Branch in Champaign, Ill. "In 1991, Congress appropriated \$37 million over two years for fuel cells at military bases. The Defense Utility Coordinating Council began fuel cell commercial implementation in 1992," he explained. Early fuel cell technology was alkaline-based. By 2001, proton exchange membrane fuel cells were installed at residential units at various military bases.

The Brooks demonstration projects are part of a research study to improve fuel cells.

"Brooks stepped up to the plate in (helping) lead the nation in (fuel cell) technology development," said Binder. Fuel cells being tested here resemble air conditioning units. These six-foot-high rectangular fuel cells were manufactured by Plug Power of Latham, N.Y., and funded by CPS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Gas Technology Institute.

"The fuel cells were installed in housing in November and were put on line last week. The units are directly

connected to the CPS power grid," said Skip Mills, Brooks Energy and Sustainability Lab director.

Mills said the demonstration projects will test for power output, durability and maintenance requirements.

"They'll be measured for how much time on line and how much maintenance will be required to keep them running. Each five kilowatt-per-hour unit will provide about one quarter of the power needed for household usage," Mills explained.

According to Plug Power officials, fuel cells are capable of providing power independent of traditional distribution lines, meaning they are not affected by power outages caused by weather or system interruptions.

The Brooks housing units and the Challenger Center are part of the Army Corps of Engineers' fuel cell program that encompasses 21 similar projects at nine U.S. military bases. Southwest Research Institute has been commissioned by the Corps as the demonstrations' resource leader, with Gas Technology Institute managing the projects. CPS is in charge of operating and maintaining the units, which they installed.

SWRI's fuel cell training activities include the design and implementation of a Web-based link to the units for monitoring and recording data.

St. Philips College students will learn maintenance operator training and data collecting activities during the demonstration period. The project will also serve as a template for infusing advanced energy technologies into existing curriculum as part of St. Philip's Energy Solutions Park Initiative, CPS officials said.

"Having a fuel cell power the Challenger Learning Center will allow us to educate the next-generation of energy consumers about this alternative fuel source that is also widely used in the space program," said Bill Merrill, Challenger Center's lead flight director. He said the center staff plans to incorporate fuel cell technology into their student pre-engineering and science training program.

March Promotions

The following Brooks officers will be promoted to the next highest rank in March.

To Lieutenant Colonel:

Kelli Thomas
311th Human Systems Wing

To Major:

Juan Ubiera
311th HSW
Herbert Wyms
311th HSW

To Captain:

Mary Ann Haberman
311th HSW

To First Lieutenant:

Brian Batson
311th HSW

Congratulations!



Heart Link

The Brooks Family Support Center presents a military spouses orientation program for military spouses married less than five years.

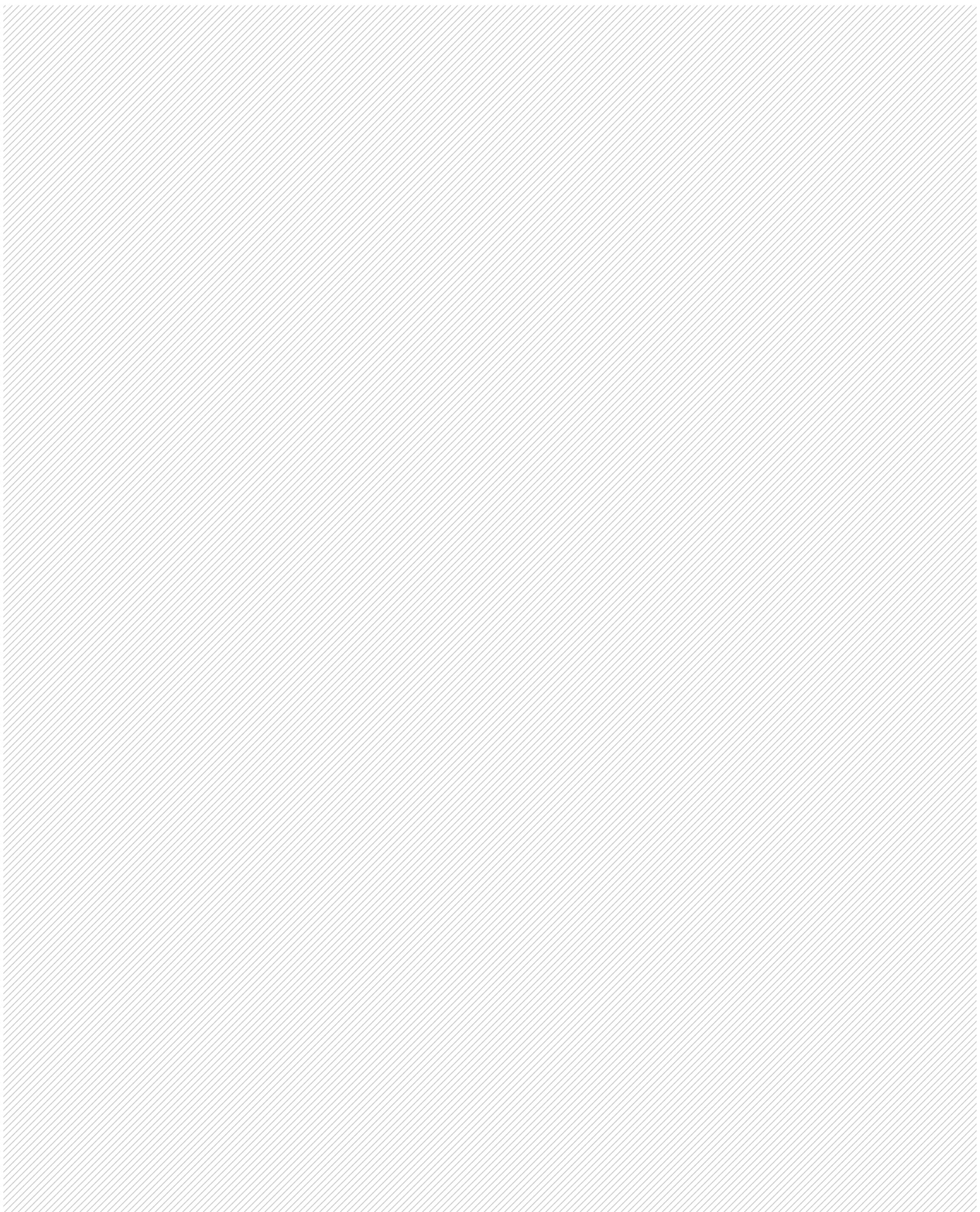
March 19
8 a.m. - noon
Brooks Family Support Center
Bldg. 537

Lunch will be provided and day care may be available.
Contact Tech. Sgt. Austin Peoples at 536-2444 for additional information and to register.



DISCOVERY
Feb. 28, 2003

5





ACE saves money, helps community

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

The Acquisition Center of Excellence on Brooks recently helped out their community and saved the government hundreds of dollars in the process.

After ACE acquired new computers, 80 outdated computers needed to be removed from the workspace. Instead of storing the computers for three to six months in a rented controlled storage space and paying contractors to move the computers two times, personnel decided to donate the computers to the Gulf Shores Academy of Houston.

Usually, the computers are stored while being advertised to other government offices. If no office wants them, the computers are thrown away. Since the computers are older models, officials at ACE felt no government organizations would want them, but a school could put them to good use.

"Being that the ACE is charged with implementing innovative ideas, Mr. Alex Slate, ACE facilitator, came up



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Personnel from the Acquisition Center of Excellence at Brooks recently loaded 80 computers onto a van for transport. ACE donated the computers to the Gulf Shores Academy in Houston.

with the idea of contacting the Texas Educational Agency to see if they were interested in the computers," said Lorraine Massie, ACE director.

TEA put ACE in contact with Gulf Shores Academy.

"It's a win-win situation," Slate said. "The ACE gets rid of the computers in weeks instead of months, the Gulf Shores Academy gets computers they can use and some children get an improved education."

Any organization that has unused computers can contact Slate at 536-6291 for details on shortening the computer turn-in process.

'Women pionneering the future'

Brooks gears up for National Women's History Month

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

March is National Women's History Month and Brooks and the nation are preparing to celebrate the event.

Though officials at Brooks have yet to confirm most of the festivities, a history trivia quiz will definitely occur. Throughout March, historical facts about influential American women will be posted via the "All Subscribers" email list on Brooks. At the end of the month, officials will post a test about "Outstanding Historical Women." The people with the top 10 scores will receive prizes.

A presentation titled "Honoring Yourself" covering women's health topics is also planned, though speaker and date are yet to be confirmed.

"Personnel at Brooks should keep their eyes and ears peeled for more information," said Wanda Jackson, the Federal Women's Program Manager at Brooks. The theme of this year's Women's History Month is "Women Pioneering the Future."

National honorees of this year's

national celebration include: Mae Jemison, the first black woman astronaut and also a medical doctor. She founded the Jemison Institute that helps advance technology in developing countries; Robin Roberts a television sports commentator; Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman elected to both houses of Congress and the first senator to challenge Sen. Joe McCarthy during the Red Scare; and Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, the first female general from the comptroller field.

Those who plan and support the events during the month hope to not only celebrate women's accomplishments, but to educate the American people about women's contributions.

Sonoma County, Calif., first celebrated Women's History week in 1978. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter officially declared the week in which March 8 fell as National Women's History Week. The week expanded to a month in 1987 after the lobbying of Congress by the Federal Women's History Project.



ACTIONLINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-4100
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3372
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444
for information

Parenting with teens

March 4, 11a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—
(Six two-hour sessions)

This seminar provides parents with information and skills to effectively guide their adolescents through their most troublesome years. Parents will participate in group discussions, role plays and other activities. Topics include current teen issues, building courage and self-esteem, problem prevention talks, drugs, sexuality and violence and helping teens develop responsibility. Participants may bring their lunch.

Sponsor training

Feb. 24, 8-9:30 a.m., Bldg. 537—

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. Others

are welcome to attend to learn about tools and resources available for sponsors. Medicare, Bexar County Area Agency on Aging will be presented, as well as other topics in the health care field.

Bundles for babies, expectant parents session

March 12, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Get information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and more.

Moving with kids

March 17, 10-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 537—

Your move can be a good one for the whole family. Children of different ages react differently to a move. Learn what to tell your children and how to get them involved.

Marketing for a second career

March 17, 10-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 537—

The seminar is recommended for military members within one or two years of separation or retirement. Military spouses and DoD civilians are also invited. Topics include civilian job market competition, perceptions employers have of military personnel, job search plans, resume strengthening, networking, preparing for successful interviews, salary negotiations and benefit packages. Retired Col. Dick Crampton, deputy director, Officer Placement Service, The Military Officers Association of America, is the guest speaker. Participants receive a copy of the "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career."



Black History Month guest speakers share messages of hope, love, equality at weekly Life Builders luncheon

By Dale Eckroth

311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

Enlightening, spiritual and often times thought-provoking views on Black History Month were presented throughout February during the Life Builders weekly luncheon gathering in the Brooks Chapel Annex. From a Baptist preacher to base military and civilian leaders, guest speakers presented messages of hope, love and equality.

"Life Builders is one of the hottest things going on at Brooks," said Lt. Col. Clifton Jackson, a member of the Brooks African-American Cultural Association and the one responsible for arranging the guest speakers' appearances. "Besides good food, good fellowship and a boost in the middle of the day, Life Builders allows you to be curious about something you may not have a lot of knowledge about."

Black History Month guest speakers included Chief Master Sgt. Alexander King, of the 311th Human Systems Program Office, Tech Sgt. Carl Bryant, of the 311th Mission Support Group, Rev. Qytravious Mumphery, associate minister of the Resurrection Baptist Church in Schertz, Texas, and Josie Swindell of the Air Force Institute for Environment,

Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis.

"I feel it's important to share my beliefs with others every day, any time any where," said Swindell. "As we look back over history and the civil rights movement, many prominent people of many races played a significant part in building this country and bringing freedom and justice to the injustices that were and still are in our society."

Swindell went on to say the most prominent standouts in black history will always be Abraham Lincoln as the catalyst for freeing slaves, Rosa Parks for setting the spark that significantly ignited the civil rights movement, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had a vision, a will and courage to fight nonviolently for righteousness.

"I'm thrilled to see guest speakers come and share a message of how faith has changed their lives, enabled them to be a blessing to others and take on positions of leadership in the Air Force and in the country," said Chaplain (Maj.) William Cannon. "They are excellent speakers with a very relevant message. A lot of people really care about learning more in the area of black contributions to the strength of the American way of life."

remarked, "I think some people come at times just because the food is so good. I'm not kidding — it's that good! But, most come because we offer something that feeds their souls in addition to their bodies.

"If you think about it, we're very unique. Some do attend chapel, some might attend a church off base and some don't attend church anywhere."

Chaplain Cannon said Life Builders is a gathering where people can go with no strings attached and no pressure. "When we say no strings attached, we mean it," he added. "We don't even charge for the lunch. It pretty well pays for itself with most people pitching in a couple dollars. They usually go away well satisfied that this was a quality investment of their lunch hour."

For more information on Life Builders or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates listing presentations that will be offered, call the Brooks Chapel at 536-3824.

What is Life Builders?

By Dale Eckroth

311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

Life Builders is a group of people who gather at noon, Wednesdays, in the Brooks Chapel Annex to enjoy guest speakers and/or videos, lively discussions and good food. According to Chaplain (Maj.) William Cannon, it's open to anyone who'd like to have a spiritual boost to his or her week.

"Our video tape presentations allow us to bring in some of the best speakers in the country and really give us something inspiring to think about," he said. "Sometimes, these insights are literally life-changing. That's why we call it Life Builders."

When asked why someone would want to come to a Life Builders luncheon, the chaplain

MPF NEWS

Hours of operation

Military Personnel Flight hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:15 a.m. - 4 p.m. except Wednesdays when the MPF closes at 3 p.m. for training.

FSGLI

The Family Members Servicemember's Group Life Insurance premium allotment starts automatically for any member who has a spouse listed in his or her DEERs data file. All married members, including members married to other military members are automatically insured and should be paying premiums. If they are not, it's usually because they are not listed in the member's DEERs file or have declined the coverage in writing, and should be updated immediately. Mil-to-Mil couples who have not declined FSGLI coverage in writing and are not paying premiums are fully insured and accruing a debt by not paying monthly premiums. FSGLI premium deductions are listed on the LES as Discretionary Allotment.

High year tenure

Effective immediately, enlisted grades of senior airmen, technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant are authorized to serve on active duty to their new high year tenure for

grades with effective dates on or after Jan. 1. They are as follows: senior airman, 12 years; technical sergeant, 24 years, master sergeant, 26 years and senior master sergeant, 28 years.

The HYT for staff sergeants and chief master sergeants remains 20 years and 30 years respectively. Personnel who have used or expended funds using separations or retirement orders or have departed on terminal leave/ permissive TDY will not be allowed to remain on active duty with this change. Personnel with approved retirements on file, retiring because of previous high year tenure, may request to withdraw their retirement. Contact Airman 1st Class Dae Paek or Tech. Sgt. Sharon Portell at 536-3187 or 536-3150 for assistance.

Dress and appearance

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, Air Force personnel are prohibited from pursuing body alterations and modifications that disfigure, deform or otherwise detract from a professional military image. Alterations include forking or splitting tongues, filing teeth or implanting objects under skin.

For more information, contact the MPF customer service section at 536-1845.



Humor, appreciation greet Brooks ambassadors during VA hospital visit

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Their heartfelt experience on Valentine's Day was more than the Brooks ambassadors could have anticipated during a special time spent with hospitalized veterans who showed them that they, too, were ambassadors of good cheer.

The Brooks entourage appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs' annual National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Feb. 14 at the South Texas Veterans' Health Care System's Audie L. Murphy Division Hospital.

"What a wonderful way to say thank you to people who were willing to give their lives and bodies as sacrifices to freedom. There is no question that we were more blessed by the visit. They truly nurtured our hearts," said Col. Albert Bowley, Jr., 311th Mission Support Group commander, who along with 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Community Relations Director Ed Shannon accompanied Brooks Ambassadors 2nd Lt. Brooke Davis and Capt. Britt Barkley on the visit.

"It was called 'No Greater Love' when the VA adopted it as an official program in 1978," said Donna Charles, Chief of Voluntary Services at Audie Murphy. She explained that it was originally created by civic groups that designed the program to pay tribute and express appreciation to America's hospitalized veterans. Since then, the program has been expanded to a weeklong tribute to our nation's 3.8 million veterans at VA medical centers, clinics and nursing homes.

The Brooks contingent was one of two dozen organizations that participated in the program. Charles said 400 veterans are currently being treated at Audie Murphy's various wards to include its extended care therapy center where the Brooks entourage spent the majority of its time this year. In past years, Brooks ambassadors have visited veterans who were terminally ill or who had spinal cord injuries.

The Brooks group learned quickly how visiting veterans has a way of tugging at one's heart. World War II Army veteran Stanley Petcavage was both engaging and endearing as he spoke briefly about hitting Utah Beach on D-Day in June 1944 as a member of the 84th Infantry Division. Soon, the conversation took an unexpected turn, something the Brooks team learned to anticipate.

"San Antonio is a great place to hunt," Petcavage said as a prelude to a story that elicited a question from Bowley, "What do you like to hunt?" Not missing a beat, the Army veteran responded, "Anything." Petcavage said his wife had accused him of hunting creatures of the two-legged variety until he came home one day with a 200-pound boar he had shot at Medina Lake.

While the jovial Petcavage had the Brooks team smiling, the deadpan delivery of Army veteran James Johnson had them rolling in the aisles. Following Bowley's recitation of his military family tree rooted to the Civil War, Johnson looked up from his bed and exclaimed, "My father was a bootlegger."

The boot-like cast on Navy veteran Ernest Lewis's left leg, however, was



Photo by Rudy Purificato

World War II Army veteran Stanley Petcavage shares a "war story" with Brooks Ambassadors Capt. Britt Barkley and 2nd Lt. Brooke Davis during a Valentine's Day visit to the Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital. The visit was in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.

not a joking matter. Lewis, who considers himself a lucky man, nearly died from the bite of a brown recluse spider. The Corpus Christi resident also recalled how he misjudged the danger of being on the weather deck of the destroyer U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy during a not-so-perfect storm.

"I should not have been out there. We were in the North Atlantic with rough seas. The weather decks had been secured, but I sneaked out for a smoke. The ship then made a starboard (right) turn," Lewis recalls, explaining that the rear end of the ship was quickly awash with a big swell. A giant wave knocked Lewis off his feet and nearly overboard. He caught hold of a chain, which saved him from being lost at sea.

Sitting motionless in a wheelchair in the cardiac unit's exercise room was a quiet Navy veteran who reluc-

tantly confessed that he had survived the Pearl Harbor attack. Fort Worth native Thomas Bigham had joined the Navy in 1940 as a radarman. On Dec. 7, 1941 Bigham was below deck on the heavy cruiser U.S.S. San Francisco when Japanese bombs killed many of his shipmates. To Bigham, war sometimes is inevitable. He offered words of encouragement to America's Armed Forces facing possible war with Iraq, saying, "We're behind you all the way."

"It meant a lot to me to meet people who had been to places and done things that I learned from history," Davis confessed, explaining that the veterans' stories reminded her of friends now serving overseas who are in harm's way. "It really 'hit home,'" she said. Barkley echoed similar feelings, characterizing the visit as an emotionally moving experience.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



1000th mission sends Challenger Learning Center into special orbit

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Stardate: 02/19/03, Captain's Log — Hit a significant milestone in never-ending journey to promote intelligent life in the universe as Challenger Learning Center completed its 1,000th mission. Retired astronaut John Blaha and center staff celebrate accomplishment with Hobby Middle School crew of 32 sixth graders who appeared starry-eyed and thrilled by experience. Next destination: rendezvous with possible student-manned mission to Mars.

After the confetti had settled to a soft landing and the complement of space travelers were safely moored in their seats, Brooks Aerospace Foundation chairman Blaha congratulated students, faculty and parent-chaperons who participated in the historic mission Feb. 19.

"What you guys did today was pretty neat. The processes that you worked on as a team are what is done on a real space mission," Blaha said. Looking to the future, he asked for their feedback and support concerning possible improvements to the center, one of 47 in the fleet worldwide.

"One of these days we'll expand this center. We need a second set of simulators," Blaha said, referring to long-range Aerospace Foundation plans to build a separate, adjoining facility that could possibly feature a "Mission to Mars."

Such a vision is definitely in the realm of possibilities, given the fact that this center was just a dream three years ago.

"I'm delighted we reached 1,000 missions in just two and a half years. It's an important milestone that other centers have reached in helping schools supplement their classroom activities," said Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director.

Klein said the idea for building this center surfaced in 1995. "Three years ago we knew we had the money and there would be a Challenger Center," Klein said, explaining that \$1.2 million had to be raised through corporate and individual donations. While the proposed "Mars" facility is only a dream, its estimated cost is \$3 million.

The Brooks Aerospace Foundation's goal was to establish the Challenger Center without any debt payment, meaning donations had to be sufficient to pay for the \$750,000 Mission Control and space



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The first of 32 sixth-grade students from Hobby Middle School is congratulated by retired astronaut John Blaha for participating in the Challenger Learning Center's 1000th mission.

station simulators, the renovation of the former bowling alley and operational costs for one year. H.E.B. and the SBC and USAA Foundations were the project's major corporate underwriters.

In July 2000, the center launched its first mission, a maiden voyage for staff training that featured an airmen crew from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. The official 'space clock' for missions started in Sept. 2000 when schools began using the facility to augment their science and math curriculums.

Since then, more than 27,000 students have traveled into simulated space here. "All districts in San Antonio have participated, as well as schools in San Marcos, Boerne, Corpus Christi and Missouri. We've also had home-schoolers and private schools here," Klein said.

Student reactions to center missions are as varied as the stars in the heavens, but veteran flight director Elizabeth Neely, who has logged close to 790 missions, cherishes one special moment in particular. "Last week a freckled face boy at the medical station on the space station was sitting there staring," she said, recalling how he seemed to be mesmerized. "I asked him what was wrong. He told me, 'I'm just astonished to be here'."

Not as astonished, but definitely pleased were the William P. Hobby Middle School students who each received a special certificate commemorating their participation in the 1,000th mission. Blaha also presented special commemorative plaques to the school's principal Ray Moncus and 6th grade science teacher Joyce Heinz.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Ash Wednesday

The Protestant and Roman Catholic community is invited to receive ashes as a sign of repentance and hear the scripture for Ash Wednesday, March 5, at the Chapel. Prayer

and praise begins at 11:30 a.m. A mass is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., and will include the imposition of ashes.

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each First Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

Chapel schedule

Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon
6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsals

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsals

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education
9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult
10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church



BROOKS SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Registration is underway for youth sports and will continue until all teams are formed. Teams are formed by age groups: 5-6 years, developmental team; 7-8 years; 9-10 years; 11-12 years; 13-14 years and 15-17 years. Brooks youth will participate in a league with Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston. Non-DoD personnel will be accepted on a space available basis. Registration is on a first come first serve

basis. For more details contact Youth Sports Director Larry Flores.

Summer is just around the corner and it's not too early to make plans for your child for the summer months. The Youth Center Summer Day Camp allows parents to work without worry while their children are being cared for. Active duty personnel may register their children April 1-18. NAF and DoD civilians, contractors and other Brooks personnel can register starting April 21. Registration continues until the program is filled. Field trips, movies, arts and crafts, cooking, gardening, swimming, including lessons, and guest speakers from the local community are a few of the items on the agenda for children attending camp. Fees are based on a sliding pay scale.

Spring Break Day Camp is scheduled for March 17-21 from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of activities will be offered daily. Campers are served breakfast, lunch and snacks. Fees are based on a sliding pay scale.

One-day camps are also scheduled for March 28, April 18, 21 and 25 at the Youth Center from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the staff for more details.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

The 2003 Varsity Sports Benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for March 14 with an 11:30 a.m. sign-in and a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$25 per person and includes cart, green

fees and lunch. Mulligans are \$1 each with a maximum of eight per team.

A Men's Softball Tournament battle is scheduled for March 22 and 23. The entry fee is \$100. Hit your own 47 core, 12-inch ball with a five home run limit. Contact Rob Collins for details on both events.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Movie Nights are back at the Brooks Club. First-run movies are shown Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Call the Club staff or stop by Bldg. 204 for details and a movie listing.

If you haven't tried the Billie Burger at the Boar's Head Pub in the Brooks Club you're missing out on a mouth-watering delight. Billie's Burger consists of 1/2 pound charbroiled ground beef, topped with a special sauce, cheddar cheese, sautéed mushrooms, onions and black olives on a toasted bun. The burger is served with fries and a pickle spear, for only \$6.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

No place to put those extra items around the home or office? Rent an indoor storage unit and clear up the clutter. Thirty-five units are located on the flight line across from Outdoor Recreation. Rent a 6' x 12' unit for \$35 per month or a 12' x 12' unit for \$60. Call for more information or to reserve a unit.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

Children's Story hour is scheduled for March 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the library. Children 2-4 years of age are invited to come and listen to stories read by our staff. Mark your calendar and bring the wee ones to Story Time. Call for information.

March is Women's History Month and the library features books and displays to honor women who have made our world a better place. Stop by and read about the many women who helped create the wonderful world we live in today.

Concessionaires, rent a space in the library lobby and display crafts and wares during normal library business hours. Contact Librarian Joanna Hansen or Becky Estrada at 536-2120.

FamFest 2003

The first Brooks City-Base Picnic is scheduled for June 20 at the base picnic grounds. Organizations still have time to sign-up for food or beverage booths. Contact Vida Marsh at 536-8057 for more information on this year's event.

Lodging

Bldg. 214, 536-1844

Gold Key Team Members Charlotte Dodson, Pedro Perez and Tech. Sgt. Richard Roberson will be at Lodging from March 8-12.



NEWS briefs

Promotion ceremony

The next Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for today, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204. The ceremony recognizes March promotees for their promotion to the next higher grade. Come out and support the newest promotees.

Sleep study subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the website at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."

Red Cross volunteers

The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to assist with the needs of the local military community as it

braces for possible war. Individuals with regular weekday, evening or weekend availability are particularly needed, but all volunteers are welcome.

The local Red Cross chapter and its military installation offices have intensified their support to local military families with increased emergency communications, assistance to deploying service members and families, and briefings for thousands of local reservists called to active duty since the first of the year.

In the event of war, the Red Cross will extend its hours of operation and staff additional offices on local military installations, which will require the help of dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers are trained to take incoming calls, complete emergency communication casework, assist with briefings and provide for a host of needs and requests from service members and their families.

Retirees, spouses, groups and young people are encouraged to find

out how they can do more to help military families during this time of need.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer call the local Red Cross office at 224-5151 ext. 248.

Altitude test subjects

Altitude test subjects needed: Help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures to accomplish their missions without distraction or hazard resulting from exposure to altitude. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of

age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.

Centrifuge subjects

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years, able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam, to participate in several studies, which help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month.

For more information, contact Suzanne Flores at 536-6258.

BXmarket

The BXmarket is offering a test of Early Bird Hours Feb. 3 through 28. The store is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.



'Whiz kids' inspired by Brooks technology

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Their probing scientific questions pertaining to Brooks City-Base aerospace medical research were far more sophisticated than what can be expected from average eighth graders. Yet the nearly 100 students who challenged and delighted their Brooks hosts with applied science inquiries expect no less from themselves and their teachers when accelerating the learning process.

While rocketry is one of their main scientific interests, students from Northeast Independent School District's Krueger School of Applied Technologies, also known as K-SAT, truly had 'a blast' here Feb. 7 by delving into a plethora of topics. These ranged from hyperbaric medicine and infectious disease research to fuel cell technology that will someday propel hydrogen-powered cars.

"As a magnet school, our primary focus is returning to the roots of what real education is all about," said Calvin Best, founder and coordinator of the school's hands-on and minds-on integrated curriculum that supports the aerospace magnet school programs.

Best's method involves exposing students to a variety of educational



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Krueger School of Applied Technologies students' interest in rockets was whetted during a visit to Hangar 9 where they viewed a model of the Saturn V rocket that propelled American astronauts to the moon. The students also had the opportunity to examine the space shuttle model of the Columbia. Many of them signed the guest registry honoring the Columbia crew at the Challenger Center.

stimuli, from applied science lessons disguised as games to field trips, including their first Brooks visit, that helped youngsters further understand the integration of scientific principles and concepts within the framework of applied research.

The purpose of the Brooks trip was to expose them to aerospace medicine and engineering through visits to the centrifuge, hyperbaric and altitude chambers and flight simulators.

They also visited Hangar 9 where a Brooks historian discussed the base's contributions to America's space program.

"We're providing them hands-on application of learning in the aerospace industry and various (other) sciences. These are the only middle school students in the United States that have learned and mastered physics, chemistry and advanced mathematics," said Roger Echon, a K-SAT physics

teacher and former Brooks scientist who once conducted high acceleration research for the Air Force Research Laboratory. Echon, who left Brooks in 2000 to work for NASA, was subsequently recruited by Best.

"This school started as an after-school program in the mid-1990s. Today, all of San Antonio's magnet schools come to us. They want our students," admits Echon.

Echon explained that the ultimate goal of the school's hands-on approach is to go beyond what the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills objectives requires on the state's standardized test, known as the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

"They're learning the basics of science and math through such major projects as designing and building rockets," Echon said, noting that such other activities as working with radio-controlled cars and satellite communications have enhanced their knowledge of telemetry and radio frequencies.

"They have the (scientific) foundation of (knowing) the electronics behind the computer in having designed computers as a game," he said.

Echon noted that the group's visit to Brooks helped expand the students' knowledge and interest as they consider future scientific careers.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Jackson

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Wanda Denise Jackson

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
311th Mission Support Group

WHAT IS MY JOB?
I'm the casualty officer responsible for providing benefit and entitlement assistance to the survivors of active duty and retired military casualties. I have collateral duty as the Federal Women's Program Manager, promoting employment and training for women.

BIRTHDAY:
Dec. 11, 1958

HOMETOWN:
Abilene, Texas

FAMILY STATUS:
I'm married to James, my best friend of 26 years, and we have a beautiful 21-year-old daughter, Starkisha Denise, a senior at St. Louis University.

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:
Miss Vikki

MOTTO:
Getting knowledge is principle, understanding is far better.

INSPIRATIONS:
Positive people who love people.

HOBBIES:
Quiet time reading and reflecting

PET PEEVE:
Arrogance

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:
The Bible and a personal journal

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:
I'd served as an active duty Air Force member for more than 11 years. It was a natural transition to continue serving my country in civil service.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
to PCS overseas as a civilian

ULTIMATE GOAL:
is to retire in 10 years
at the grade of GS-13.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
I don't play, but if I were blessed to win a fortune I'd invest in ministry outreach, give to those less fortunate, give to family members and travel all over the world.

MY FAVORITE MUSIC:
Gospel and jazz

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
having the respect of those who call me "friend"

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
my relationship with Jesus Christ

Feature

Brooks Personality PROFILE



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

Anyone who needs faith restored in humanity should go speak with Wanda Jackson. She is not only helpful and friendly, but she wants to listen to people and most importantly she wants to find the good in everyone she meets.

"I love to interact with people," Jackson. "I like to get to know the heart of a person, where each of us truly lives."

Those qualities fit well with her job as the Casualty and Survivor Benefit Representative in the Military Personnel Flight at Brooks City-Base.

"Any person dealing with casualty should be sensitive and cognizant to the grief, the anger, the demands, all the emotions the surviving next-of-kin is feeling," Jackson said.

Sometimes Jackson finds herself at the receiving end of those emotions, but she lets the outbursts slide and concentrates on performing her professional duty as well as her duty as a human being.

"I absolutely try to first be sensitive," Jackson said. "Some of the widows are at the lowest point in their lives. If a part of them has died I have to realize I'm not dealing with a whole person. Maybe I'm the punching bag, but I'm not the source of their anger."

Despite any abuse that comes with the position, Jackson's job is also very fulfilling.

"My satisfaction comes when I follow-up with the widow (or next-of-kin) and I know they've been taken care of. My fullest satisfaction is just helping people. I know in myself I've done all that I could," Jackson explained.

Jackson uses her people skills for

another purpose as well, in her collateral duty as the Federal Women's Program Manager.

"My main focus is to provide education and training opportunities to enhance the employability and advancement of women," Jackson said. "People are destroyed daily from lack of knowledge."

Though she's been affiliated with the program at large for several years, she wanted a more active involvement in the program, so when the program manager position became vacant, she applied for the job. Jackson, who served active duty in the Air Force for nearly 12 years, wanted to tackle the additional work because she feels she missed some advancement chances in her career because she didn't know about the opportunities.

"People say we don't need the programs, but it's like a necessary evil," Jackson said. "We need someone to watch to make sure minorities, women and persons with disabilities don't fall through the cracks. They're necessary. The base needs to embrace these programs."

One of her biggest tasks as FWP manager is advising both management and the work force of how Special Emphasis Programs help meet the overall equal employment opportunity goals. Jackson's goal when planning the activities is not only to inform women, but to inform everyone.

"My desire for March's Women's History Month is for Brooks City-Base personnel to participate," she said. "It's all about educating ourselves. Don't turn a deaf ear because it's about women."

Jackson works with the other Special Emphasis Program Managers on base to plan educational events

throughout the year, not just during specified months. Last year's activities included a training program for student workers on Brooks and an educational seminar in honor of Women's Equality Day in which 154 federal employees (men and women) attended. Jackson meets with resistance while meeting her goals, partly due to ignorance .

"Most people are not even aware of their prejudice...they don't see how they may hinder another group from reaching their full potential."

Much of Jackson's strength and patience comes from her faith in God and her husband of 26 years, James, who worked in the Military Equal Opportunity arena during his Air Force career. Her husband supports her in both of her professional roles and her Church reminds her to be tolerant.

"Being a child of the Lord I know that His love covers all faults," Jackson said. "I'm not looking to judge anybody. I'm looking to understand them."

"We are first spiritual beings, but we also have to deal with the natural forces," Jackson said.

Her desire to learn and comprehend makes her an interested and sincere listener.

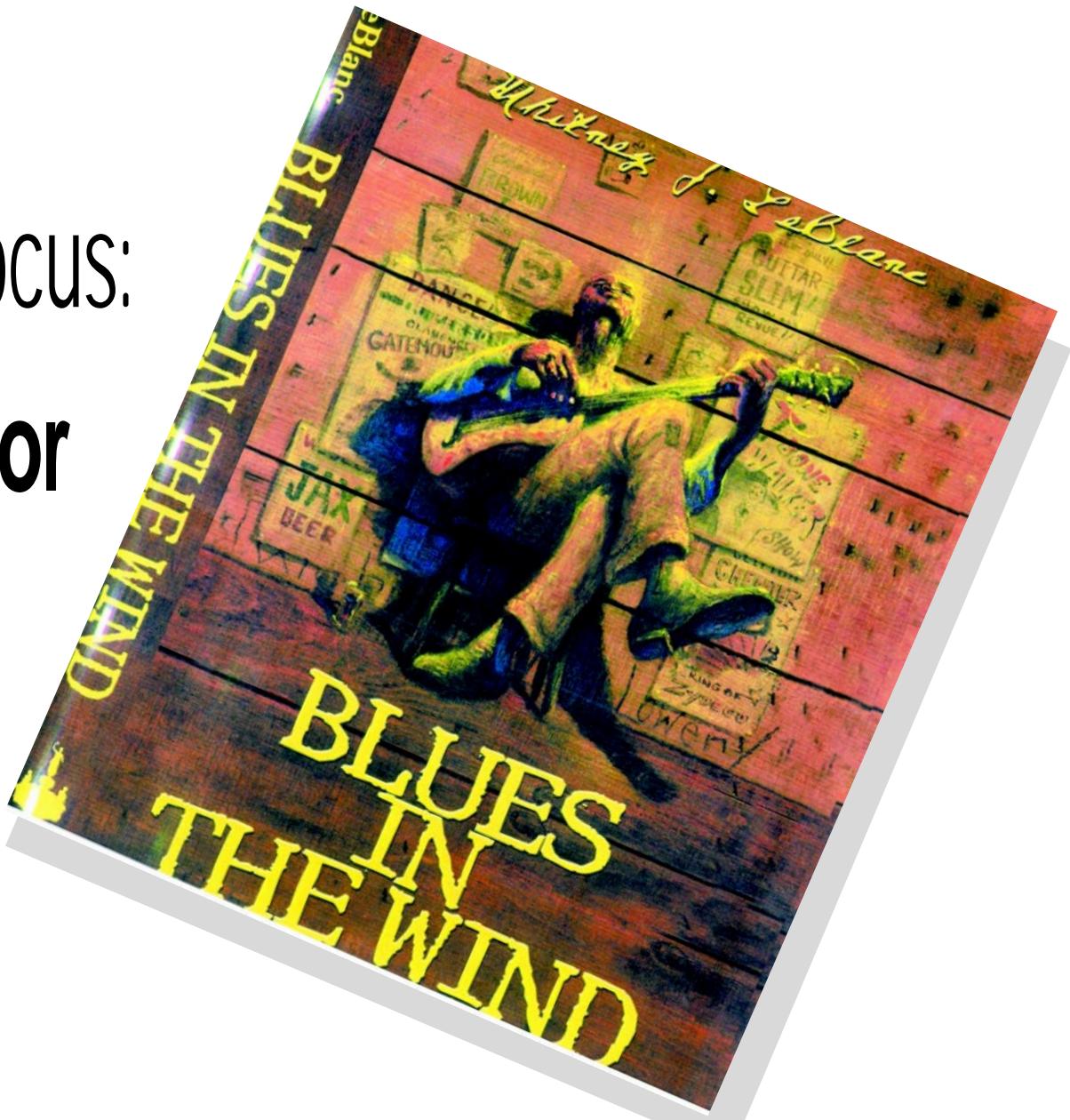
Jackson sets people at ease and brings calm and hope during desperate points in their lives. Wherever she goes and whatever she does, Jackson's gifts of love, patience and kindness will aid her in her journey.

"My life is not about me, it's about how can I make your life better," Jackson said.

"We're all here for just a minute."



Black History Month focus: TV producer, author offers insight on life as an African-American



By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Whitney LeBlanc appears content with life as an elder statesman, having paid his dues in America by overcoming emotionally painful experiences that a man of mixed heritage can only fully appreciate. Through his struggles, he has realized a great truth about life: to use God-given talents for the Creator's glory rather than the futile practice of trying to always please others.

LeBlanc, who visited the Brooks Library in December at the invitation of the 311th Services Division to promote his first novel *Blues In The Wind*, spent a distinguished career as a professor, scenic designer and TV producer-director. Now he has ventured not-too-far-afield with his first historical novel about the birth of the blues.

"My maternal grandfather Felix Mack was my inspiration for the novel's main character Phillip," admits LeBlanc, referring to him as a 'silent influence.' His grandfather was a high school principal and founder of two segregated high schools in his native Louisiana.

Born 25 miles southwest of Lafayette, La. in the small town of Opelousas, La. on June 20, 1931, LeBlanc was the eldest of two children from the union of his late father Whitney, Sr., a business entrepreneur, and his mother Lucy, a retired elementary school teacher. For him, growing up black in the South was not as difficult

as trying to pursue a career as an adult.

After earning an undergraduate degree in education from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LeBlanc briefly taught school and served as an Army chaplain's assistant before enrolling in theatre arts at the University of Iowa. While family members were upset with him for abandoning pharmacy, LeBlanc discovered his talent for acting. So good was he that his theatre professor Dr. Winona Fletcher arranged an audition with legendary Hollywood director Raoul Walsh.

"Walsh didn't like Sidney Poitier and didn't want him to play the part of Clark Gable's servant in the movie 'Band of Angels,'" recalls LeBlanc about the 1957 drama from Robert Penn Warren's novel set in Civil War Kentucky. LeBlanc's first encounter with racial discrimination during his budding acting career started with that audition. His mixed French and African-American ancestry as a Creole caused Walsh not to select him.

"He (Walsh) didn't talk to me directly, but through my teacher. He knew I had talent, but I didn't look black enough. I realized that he did not want the story to infer that I may be Gable's son," LeBlanc said, referring to his light complexion.

A second, more devastating incident involving race occurred during LeBlanc's participation in a University of Iowa theatre workshop. "I played a sailor in a scene from the Rose Tatoo. We had an integrated cast. I had a kissing scene with a white

girl. Just as I was about to kiss her, the head of the workshop yelled 'cut.' I was devastated. I ran out to the parking lot and cried."

LeBlanc was through with acting. This turning point in his life led him to pursue scenic design, something he knew nothing about until famed scenic designer Dr. A.S. Gillette tutored him. After graduating with a master's degree in scenic design in 1958, LeBlanc held assistant professorships at Antioch College in Ohio, Howard University in Washington, D.C. and Towson State University in Baltimore. He eventually directed and produced an award-winning Public Broadcasting program called "Our Street."

"In 1975, I went west. I was ready to take on Hollywood," he said, noting that Hollywood wasn't ready for him. LeBlanc eventually got his first break as an associate producer of the black

sitcom "Good Times." "There was a lot of conflict on the set between John Amos, who played the father, and the other actors," he said, referring to the ensemble cast that included Estelle Rolle, Thelma Hopkins and Jimmy Walker who as the show's character J.J. became famous for his comic tag line "Dy-na-mite." "Amos didn't like J.J. He thought he was a clown."

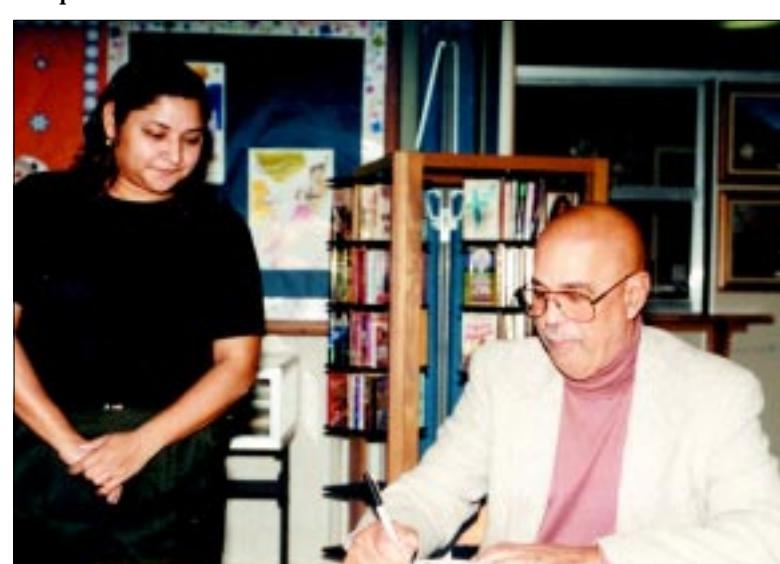
Unfortunately, LeBlanc hit a 'brick wall' in Hollywood because he did not have a directing credit, a membership requirement for the Director's Guild. However, through his friendship with Jack Shea, director of "The Jeffersons," LeBlanc received the training he needed to secure future directing jobs. He learned a lot from watching Shea work his magic directing the affable Sherman Helmsley as the irrepressible George Jefferson.

By 1984, LeBlanc was directing multiple episodes of the popular show "Benson" starring Robert Guillaume, who he had met in 1958 when both were struggling actors in Cleveland. "That series opened up doors for me," he said. LeBlanc would prosper as an associate producer, director and stage manager for The Red Foxx Show, Dinah, The Jim Nabors Show, The Young and The Restless and the Lawrence Welk Show. He also produced 52 episodes of the highly acclaimed PBS series "Up and Coming."

By the mid-1990s, LeBlanc experienced another type of discrimination: age. "I arrived in Hollywood late in my life," he said, noting that Hollywood historically favors youth over experience.

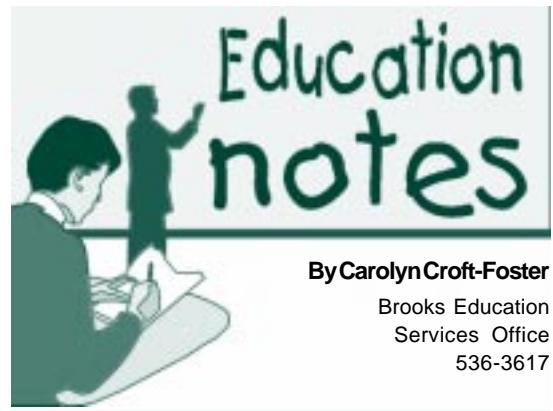
He counts as one of his most gratifying contributions in having taught, nurtured and inspired the late Howard E. Rollins, Jr., co-star of the TV drama "In the Heat of the Night," who received a best actor Academy Award nomination for the 1981 film "Ragtime" which starred legendary performer James Cagney.

This California resident, father of San Antonio assistant city manager Jelynne LeBlanc Burley, plans to pursue writing while continuing his passion of creating works of art in stained glass. This medium truly reflects LeBlanc's multifaceted career as a mosaic that forms a true picture of a life that is the sum of its many parts.



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Author Whitney LeBlanc autographs his book *Blues in the Wind* during a recent visit to the Brooks library. During his visit, LeBlanc, also a former Hollywood producer, discussed his contributions to African-American history through his experiences revealed in the book.



By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

ROTC Briefing —

The ROTC Detachment from Southwest Texas State University will visit Brooks March 26 at 12:15 p.m. to present various scholarship programs available to active duty airmen. These programs are 2-4 years in length and lead to an AF commission. All airmen are invited to attend. For more information, call 536-3618.

Six CLEP exams retired

The College Board is retiring 6 CLEP subject paper-based tests in June. The exams are: General Humanities, General Biology, General Chemistry, German, and Western Civilization I and II. Anyone wishing to take one of these exams must take it prior to 30 June 30. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General

English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. Call the Education Center for more information or to reserve a seat.

Changes for OTS/ROTC application

All non-technical boards are suspended until Oct. 2003. Officer training school continues to accept applications for pilot, navigator, and technical career fields. All non-technical selects' class assignments are on hold until Aug. 2003. Potential applicants who met with guidance counselors should schedule follow-up appointments to see how the changes affect their packages. OTS is still accepting applications for Air Battle Managers and Space and Missile Systems. To schedule an appointment, call 536-3617 for details.

ACCD Flex 2 registration

The Alamo Community College District Flex 2 registration is underway. Semester begins March 10 and ends May 11. On-base classes include Speech, Art Appreciation, US History II and Ethics. Tuition Assistance covers the full cost of tuition for ACCD classes. Students should request TA 48 hours prior to registration. The ACCD representative visits Brooks Tuesdays. Call 536-3617 for an appointment.

Brooks City-Base and community job fair

A community job fair is scheduled for April 11 from 9:30 a.m.-3p.m. at Hangar 9. Whether you are seeking employment now or gathering information for future career decisions, make this job fair a part of your transition/job search strategy. The job fair is open to active duty and retired military, DoD civilian personnel, family members and the public.

Air Force Aid Society education grants

The 2003-2004 Air Force Aid Society General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$1,500 grants to spouses of active duty members stationed stateside and widows of deceased members; retired reservists; Title 10 Guard/Reservists on extended active duty, dependent sons and daughters of active duty, retired, or deceased members and Title 32 Air National Guard performing full-time active duty. Use of funds is limited to tuition, books and fees and other direct educational expenses. Application deadline is March 14. Pick up your application today at Brooks Family Support Center, Bldg. 537, or visit the Website at: www.afas.org.

Dental assistant training

The 59th Dental Squadron is accepting applications for the Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant Program. Family members of military and civilian employees who would like to become dental assistants are invited to apply for this free training opportunity. The next class begins April 14 and will be held Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Kelly Dental Clinic. Applicants will be interviewed from March 10-14. Prospective candidates must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and commit to six months of training.

Contact the Kelly Dental Flight at 925-6647 or 6648 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information.



New policy requires electronic ticketing when available

A new process is in place for government employees on official travel. If an airline offers electronic ticketing capability, it must be used.

If there is no electronic ticketing available for an itinerary, a paper ticket will be issued with no charge for the paper ticket. If electronic ticketing is available but travelers request paper tickets, a non-refundable non-reimbursable service fee of \$20-25, imposed by the airlines, will be charged.

Electronic receipts are available at: www.mytripandmore.com.

To access receipts, enter the website, log-in the last name and the trip locator number. The option for E-ticket Record is listed directly beneath the travel plans heading. If the itinerary has been ticketed, it will bring up an Electronic Ticket Record, approved by Finance, as an acceptable receipt. It will not show the ticketing fee, however.

According to Finance officials, a receipt is not necessary for any ticketing fee under \$75. The transaction fee must be claimed on the voucher to obtain reimbursement.

When purchasing a ticket, indicate that you want to be Electronically-ticketed. This can be noted on orders, or upon approval of orders through the travel office. Your itinerary will not be ticketed without instructions from you. Ticketing will incur a non-refundable transaction fee.

If you are planning a trip during Spring Break, book your trip as soon as possible. With the reduced number of scheduled flights, you need to reserve your seat for any March travel early to ensure availability.

For questions or more information on E-ticketing, contact the Travel Management Office at 536-8451 or N & N Travel and Tours at 534-3047.

Brooks Tax Center open for business

The Brooks Tax Center, located in Bldg. 912, is now open for business. The center operates Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m. They also have late hours Wednesdays from 5-6:30 p.m.

The tax center assists clients with simple federal income tax returns for electronic filing or paper returns on an appointment basis. Since the center is run by volunteers, customers are asked to be patient when scheduling appointments.

The center is open to military members, retirees and family members. Appointments for civilian employees begin Mar. 11.

Call 536-8696 to schedule an appointment.

We will prepare:

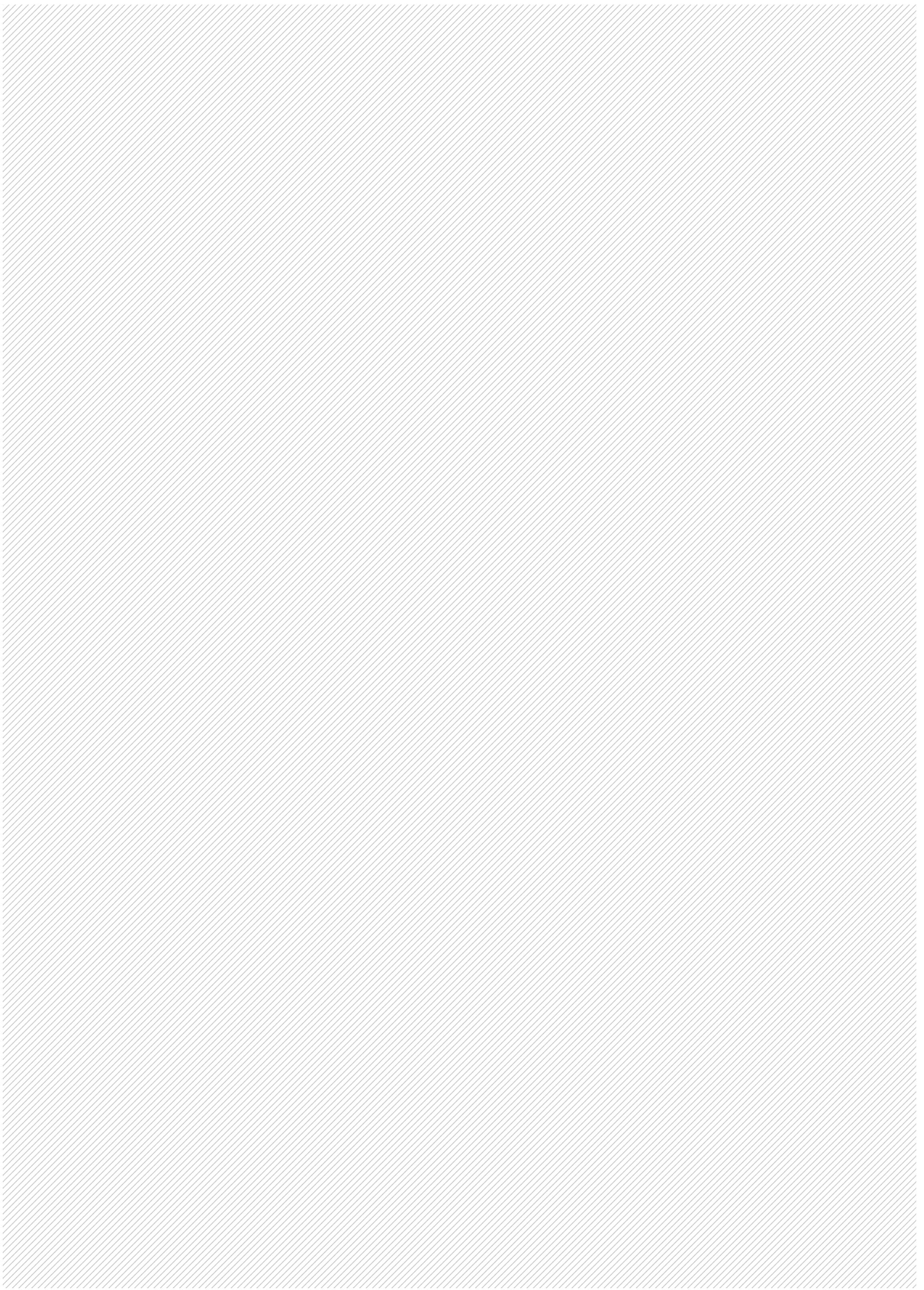
- Form 1040EZ
- Form 1040 A with Sch 1, 2, 3 & EIC
- Form 1040 with Sch A, B, R & SE

- Form 1040-V
- Form 2441 (Child/Dependant Care Credit)
- Form 8863 (Education Credits)
- Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit)

We CANNOT Prepare:

- Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business)
- Schedule D (Capital Gains & Losses)
- Schedule E (Rents & Losses)
- Form SS-5 (Request, Social Security number)
- Form 2106 (Employee Business Expense)
- Form 3903 (Moving)
- Form 1040-ES
- Form 8606 (Nondeductible IRA)
- Form 8615 (Minor's Investment Income)

Individuals with these forms are encouraged to seek professional assistance.





'Magnificent 8' create legacy at AFMC hoop tournament

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They will be forever remembered in Brooks varsity men's basketball history as the "Magnificent 8" for their unbelievable Mount Everest-like quest to capture the base's first Air Force Materiel Command hoop championship. As AFMC tournament runners-up, their legacy was secured by heroic figures whose incredible play serves as a testament to determination, sacrifice and perseverance.

A depleted Brooks squad pulled off a miracle by becoming the first base men's hoop team to make it to the command tournament championship game undefeated, after having lost all six AFMC tourney games the previous year. While Brooks recently lost the AFMC title to Eglin AFB 65-53 at tourney host Tinker AFB, Okla., they nevertheless became to their coach, and to a larger extent to this base, true champions.

"Everybody on base should congratulate these young men. Consider where we came from, it's (second) better than first. I told them they should be proud of everything they did. No one gave us a chance. They played their butts off, and in my eyes they are champions," said coach Hosea Talbert.

Just days before the tournament began, however, the team seemed poised on the precipice of oblivion. Several key players were lost to deployments, work commitments and educational obligations. Remaining players held their only practice since ending what Talbert described as a crazy 'irregular' season.

"The last time we played together was at Sheppard (AFB)," Talbert said,



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks' varsity men's point guard Robert Garcia shows his moves during a pre-AFMC tournament practice. Garcia earned tournament MVP honors and his fifth selection to the AFMC All-Tourney Team.

referring to the December tournament. Brooks won several games, but the team's play was for the most part inconsistent. The same problems the squad had experienced the previous season seemed to haunt them again. "They lacked discipline and a sense of direction. I'm to blame for this, but it got to the point where motivational speeches didn't work anymore," admits Talbert.

Besides this perceived player malaise, Talbert had an even bigger problem to overcome. Faced with the daunting challenge of taking just five players to the tournament, Talbert acted quickly to stock his non-existent bench with reserves. "Two days before the tournament, I recruited intramural referee Miloh Jenkins," admits Talbert, who also activated assistant coach George Clark and the team's statistician Mike Weems. These men had not played one second of regular season basketball.

They would later prove vital in helping relieve a reconstituted starting rotation that included point guard Robert Garcia, power forward Rob Taylor, shooting guard Colby Benjamin, center David King and small forward 'Bad, Bad' Leroy Brown.

At the team's only practice, Talbert used one last tactic to help motivate a group who had not yet proven they were 'magnificent.' "I brought out the sportsmanship trophy given to us at last year's AFMC tourney," Talbert said, referring to the dubious honor bestowed upon the last place team. "I told them we don't want to win this thing this year." He admits having lingering doubts about his team.

"We were 0-6 last year. We had no expectations," the coach exclaimed. When they arrived in Oklahoma City, the Brooks eight seemed to collectively experience a basketball epiphany. "As soon as we got there, they had the same gut feeling that I had about winning. We were, for the first time, on the same sheet of music," Talbert said about them embracing what he had been teaching them all along.

"I was proud of them. They went into the valley with sling shots to fight a valley of giants." Leading the way was Garcia, a player Talbert described as the 'ultimate floor general.' "Rob Taylor was our workhorse, and we rode him until he fell out," Talbert said, adding, "Everything I asked them to do, they did. They had no quit in them."

When Leroy Brown hit his first three

jump shots during the opening game against Hill AFB, Talbert immediately sensed magic in the air. "Leroy set the tone for the tournament. His shots gave us a sense that we could compete," the coach said. Brooks' 85-74 win against Hill was the beginning of a pattern that prevailed throughout the tourney. "We were always behind at half-time," Talbert said, noting that all five of their victories were come-from-behind.

Brooks dispatched Wright-Patterson AFB 70-55 and out-played the tourney's scrappiest team Hanscom AFB 80-65.

"At 3-0, we needed to win against Edwards to be seeded first in the western conference, thereby earning a bye to the semi-finals," Talbert recalls. Edwards AFB proved formidable. "We were trying not to lose instead of win," Talbert said. Down by 17 points at the half, Brooks stepped up its level of play. "They made the mistake of switching from zone defense to man-to-man and it cost them." Brooks went on a 24-2 run, fueled by Taylor's blistering offense that resulted in his tourney-high 43-point performance.

The tournament's 'Cinderella' team faced Tinker in the semi-finals. "They had beaten us by 27 points at the Sheppard tournament. They went into the game a little overconfident," Talbert admits. Tinker ended the game, amidst their fans cheering for Brooks, with a deflating 79-72 loss.

"Now everybody wanted us to win," Talbert said about his underdog squad. Undefeated Eglin, however, spoiled the party by triple-teaming Taylor.

Garcia, Taylor and Benjamin were named to the All-Tourney team. Garcia also earned the tourney's Most Valuable Player Award which he selflessly gave to Taylor. "For us, watching Taylor operate on the floor, was to a lesser degree, watching Michael Jordan. He was unbelievable," Talbert said.

"The team really played above and beyond the call of duty. I've won command tournaments elsewhere with teams that were supposed to win. This one was different. It was the best tournament I've ever been in. If I could do this again, I'd take the same players. They earned my respect."

Intramural hoop playoff contenders to cool off 'hot' I.C.E.

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The hottest team going into the Brooks post-season intramural basketball tournament has the coolest name and the best record, but they don't anticipate a meltdown in their quest to win their first base title when the playoffs begin March 3.

As undefeated league champs, I.C.E. will be tested in the tourney's first round that concludes with the championship game scheduled for 2 p.m. March 6 at the fitness center.

"We beat MDS in our first game of the season. They have gotten a lot better since then," admits Carl Lewis, coach of the 311th Mission Support Group squad whose initials stand for Intensity, Concentration and Execution. I.C.E. squares off against the 311th Medical Squadron in the preliminary round while the 68th Information Operations Squadron battles the 311th Security Forces Squadron. Only the top four teams advanced to the playoffs.

Lewis, who guided his squad to a perfect 8-0 season record, knows his team's job is not over until they capture the base crown. MDS, as ABG #2 last year, lost the base championship game to the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, is not intimidated by I.C.E.

"Our strengths include Jesus Ontiveros. The ball goes through him," said MDS player-coach Ralph Pena who led his squad to a respectable 5-3 season record and a playoff berth. Pena credited the inspired

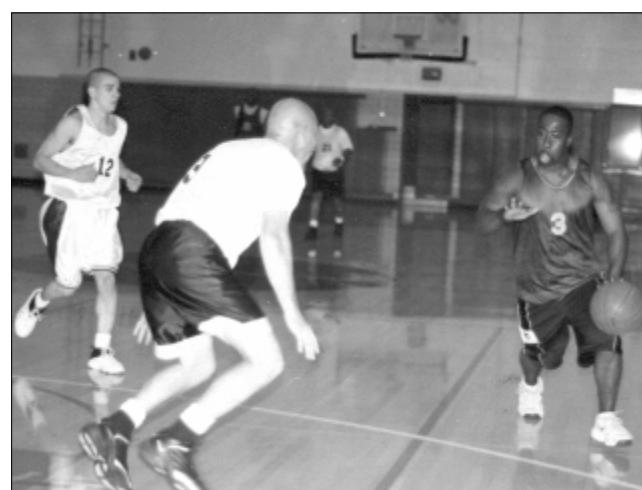


Photo by Rudy Purificato

311th Security Forces Squadron's Colby Benjamin, right, will be one of many obstacles the I.C.E. Squad, left, will have to overcome at the base championship tournament if they are to win their first base title.

play of rookies Joe Harvey and Frank Herty as major contributors to the team's success this year. Harvey, MDS's point guard, was placed in the unenviable position of trying to fill the sneakers of hoop superstar Robert Garcia who left the team after last season to play for I.C.E. Herty, meanwhile, helped fill the void of the loss of MDS star forward Slim Bailey who plays for SFS this season.

Pena is optimistic about their chances against I.C.E., knowing that anything can happen during the playoffs. Pena's confidence is also bolstered in having veteran three-point threat Clay Phipps, a big game player who does not wilt under pressure. It was Phipps who buried a 15-foot jumper at the buzzer to beat AFIERA for the league championship last year.

Besides having to contend with a revitalized MDS, I.C.E. also considers SFS another legitimate contender for the base title. SFS's arsenal includes shooting guard and varsity veteran Colby Benjamin who smoked, but did not melt, I.C.E. with a record-setting 50-points in the league championship game.

What the four playoff contenders don't have to worry about this post-season is the looming presence of AFIERA, who was bounced from the league in the next-to-the-last game of the season when they forfeited their third game. AFIERA, the defending base champs, failed to reach the playoffs for the first time in more than a decade. Their always-optimistic coach Aaron Sinclair says deployments and other mission-related issues devastated his squad, which had forfeited previous games because they didn't have enough players to field a team.

AFIERA's absence from this year's tournament will be strange, given their history of usually beating the league champ in the base championship game. But no one who made the playoffs is singing any sad songs for Sinclair and his squad that have dominated intramural team sports for many years. To them, the AFIERA dynasty has ended in favor of a new team hoping to make their own history.

Final Season Standings

I.C.E.....	8-0
68IOS.....	7-2
MDS.....	5-3
SFS.....	5-3
Comm.....	4-4
AFIERA.....	3-5
PK.....	2-6
USAFSAM.....	2-6



Postal Service unveiling stamp at Air Force Museum

DAYTON, Ohio (AFPN) — U.S. Postal Service officials announced recently that the U.S. Air Force Museum will be the venue for a ceremonial first-day issue of the 100th Anniversary of Powered Flight Commemorative Stamp.

Dayton Postmaster David Ashworth revealed the museum as the location for a May 22 unveiling ceremony as he stood in front of the museum's De Havilland DH-4, a World War I combat aircraft also used as a mail carrier after the war.

"This recognition is very significant for the City of Dayton, and it's significant to the U.S. Postal Service that we can honor the heritage of aviation and an event that changed history," said Ashworth.

"This is a tremendous honor that

our city and the U.S. Air Force Museum was selected for this first-day issue."

According to Ashworth, a similar event will be held the same day in North Carolina.

Following Ashworth's announcement, museum director retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles Metcalf expressed his gratitude for the U.S. Postal Service selecting the museum.

"We're proud to be selected as the site for the first-day issue of this stamp," said Metcalf.

"The museum is a very natural location as many examples of the aircraft that carried the mail in the earlier days of flight can be seen here. We're excited about the opportunity to not only highlight the museum and the Air Force but also Dayton's rich aviation legacy."

The May 22 stamp unveiling will serve as one of many events at the museum to commemorate the Centennial of Flight.

AF revises body modification, mutilation guidance

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

Air Force Print News

The Air Force has revised personal appearance guidelines in response to a trend involving extreme body modification and mutilation that is becoming common among a small, yet growing segment of the population, according to personnel officials.

This change is in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel. It prohibits airmen from intentionally altering or modifying their bodies in order to achieve a visible effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image, said Lt. Col. Frank Pombar, chief of the Air Force quality of life programs and uniform branch at the Pentagon.

"The Air Force is a profession of arms and there are certain appearance standards that we must adhere to," Pombar said. "Whether in or out of uniform, we represent the Air Force and must conduct our-

selves professionally."

"For some time now, recruiters have been seeing a growing number of people with extreme body alterations or piercings," he said. "Without specific guidance, recruiters often had to rely on personal opinion or taste to make a decision as to what was or was not appropriate."

However, this change to the AFI is not a checklist nor is it intended to tie the hands of Air Force officials, Pombar said. The goal is to establish broad guidance to assist commanders, first sergeants, recruiters and airmen in determining what is or is not acceptable and professional, he explained. Administrative or disciplinary action will be left up to the discretion of each commander.

The bottom line is that there are certain appearance standards that the service and the nation expects airmen to adhere to and therefore Air Force people must always strive to conduct themselves in a professional manner, he said.